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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0799
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5343
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - MIDDLE EAST PEACE & EU
EXPANSION

LEAD STORIES: Top stories on Tuesday morning included the growing likelihood that special legislation sponsored by the ruling coalition for providing medical and other relief measures for hepatitis C patients will be unanimously approved later this week.

1. "Put an End to 60-year Conflict" The liberal Asahi editorialized (1/8): "President Bush is to visit Israel and the West Bank for the first time, with just one year remaining in his term.... Many are pessimistic about how much he can accomplish on Middle East peace in a year. Bush's efforts to achieve a breakthrough on this issue, however, will help reduce sympathy in the Arab world toward al-Qaeda. Two major issues need to be resolved: Palestinian independence and Palestinian refugees.... A compromise is imperative. Only the U.S. can act as a go-between, because it has influence over the two parties to the conflict."

2. "High Time to Demonstrate Effects of Unification and Expansion" The liberal Mainichi wrote in an editorial (1/8) "The unification of the EU is entering a new stage with its members' signing of the Lisbon Treaty that sets forth new basic principles concerning its decision-making and management.... Europe has chosen to unite in order to demonstrate its presence and clout in a multipolar world. It can influence discussions on global warming because it enters into international negotiations with one voice. The EU's policies and initiatives in such areas as the International Criminal Court and consumer protection have become international norms. As the EU compiled the Lisbon Treaty based on debate over what the union should look like, the EU will have to visibly demonstrate the effects of

unification and expansion."

DONOVAN